

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The following remarks are in reply to the Office action of 02/28/2008. In light of this reply, reconsideration and further examination of this application are respectfully requested.

Six claims were pending in this application. In this reply, five claims (1 and 3 -6) were amended, one claim (2) was canceled and one new claim (40) was added. Accordingly, 6 claims (1, 3-6 and 40) are now pending for reconsideration and further examination.

On page 2 of the Office action, the Examiner objected to the title of the invention as not being descriptive and required a new title that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

In light of the above amendments to the claims, it is respectfully submitted that this objection is now moot.

On page 3 of the Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Nakamura et al (US Patent 5,636,042), stating, in pertinent part,

In re claims 1-2, Nakamura et al discloses a panel for a liquid crystal display, comprising: an insulating substrate (300) having a flat surface; *a transparent electrode (341) formed on the flat surface of the insulating substrate; a black matrix (311) formed on the transparent electrode; and a protrusion (413) formed on the black matrix (Figure 2; column 4 - column 5).* (Emphasis added.)

In light of the above amendments and the remarks that follow, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection is now moot.

Independent claim 1 of the present application includes, among others, the following distinguishing limitations:

a transparent electrode disposed on the flat surface of the insulating substrate;

a black matrix disposed on the transparent electrode; and,

a protrusion disposed on the black matrix and comprising a photosensitive material.

The Nakamura '042 reference is directed to a technique for repairing defective pixel modes, including "luminance point defects," that is carried out, on a pixel-by-pixel basis, after the LCD has been assembled and tested for such defects. In particular, defective pixels are irradiated with laser light to burn "protrusions" in the portions of the "orientation films 411 and 413"

corresponding to the defective pixels to “mute” them. (‘042, Abstract; Fig. 2, col. 6, lines 26-49), and consequently, the disclosure of the Nakamura ‘042 bears little relevance to the present invention.

More particularly, in the Nakamura ‘042 reference, the “light attenuating layer 311” (black matrix layer) is disposed directly on the substrate 300, an “organic protection film 331” is disposed on the light attenuating layer, and an “opposed ITO electrode 341” is disposed on the organic protection film. The “protrusion 413” referred to by the Examiner above is, in fact, a plurality of roughening bumps that are burned into the orientation film 413, the opposed electrode 341 and/or the organic protection film 331 with a laser, as described above. (‘042, Fig. 2, col. 4, lines 60-67, col. 5, lines 1-6.) Initially, it is noted that none of these structures comprises “a photosensitive material.” Further, because the “protrusions 413” are, and can only be, formed in the pixel areas that can irradiated with laser light after the LCD is assembled (*Id.*, col. 3, lines 25-30), they can never be “formed or disposed on the black matrix,” which is, by nature, opaque to the passage of light.

In light of the above and other substantial differences between the Nakamura ‘042 and the present invention, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention is patentably distinct over this reference.

On page 4 of the Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Inoue et al (US Patent 7,136,140).

In light of the remarks that follow, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

An examination of the Inoue et al. ‘140 reference reveals that it has a U.S. filing date of July 7, 2000. However, by virtue of the Applicant’s having perfected a claim to priority under 35 U.S.C. 119 (a)-(d), the present application has an effective U.S. filing date of May 12, 2000. Accordingly, the Inoue ‘140 is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). 35 U.S.C. §119; MPEP §706.02(b).

In light of the foregoing reply, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 – 6 are allowable over the art of record. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

If there are any questions regarding this Reply, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number indicated below.

Certification of Electronic Transmission

I hereby certify that this paper is being electronically transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.



Nuo Qu

July 28, 2008
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



Don C. Lawrence
Applicant's attorney
Reg. No. 31,975

Tel. (949) 752-7040